In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for managing tasks comprising:

receiving a message from a remote administrator within system firmware; and

launching a lower priority task from a higher priority task only in response to receipt of said message and absent a suspension selected from the group consisting of a system interrupt and a pause in a higher level task operation.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of launching said lower priority task includes an agent.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving said message from said remote administrator includes a dispatcher.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising said dispatcher placing said message in a data structure.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising said dispatcher setting a flag for signaling receipt of said message.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of launching said lower priority task includes an agent, said agent receiving said flag and reading said data structure.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising said agent resetting said flag.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of launching said lower priority task includes responding to said message.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said higher priority task includes maintaining a level of operation.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a remote administrator located in firmware;

a set of resources loaded in said firmware and in communication with said remote administrator, said resources comprising:

a message manager operating at a high priority level to receive a message from said administrator to launch a low priority level task;

a task manager operating at a low priority level to launch said low priority level task;

a data structure shared between said message manager and said task manager to facilitate communication between said message manager and said task manager;

said message manager to communicate said low priority task to said task manager through said data structure; and

said ~~a~~ task manager to launch said low ~~a lower~~ priority task from ~~a~~ said high ~~higher~~ priority task only in response to receipt of said message in said data structure ~~and absent a suspension selected from the group consisting of a system interrupt and a pause in a higher level task operation~~.

11. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, wherein said message manager is a dispatcher.

12. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, wherein said task manager is an agent.

13. Cancel

14. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 13, wherein said data structure

~~storage~~ stores said message received from said dispatcher manager.

15. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, further comprising a flag to indicate to said task manager receipt of said message in said data structure.

16. (Original) The computer system of claim 15, wherein said task manager reads said message in said data structure and launches said lower priority task in response to said flag.

17. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said task manager resets said flag following launch of said lower priority task.

18. (Original) The computer system of claim 10, wherein said higher priority task maintains a level of operation.

19. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a computer-readable medium;

means in the medium for receiving a message from a remote administrator in system firmware, wherein receipt of said message is by a tool operation at a medium priority level;

means in the medium for storing said message in a data structure shared between said medium priority tool and a lower priority tool; and

means in the medium for launching a lower priority task from a higher priority task only in response to receipt of said message and absent a suspension selected from the group consisting of a system interrupt and a pause in a higher level task operation.

20. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 19, wherein the medium is a recordable data storage medium.

21. (Original) The article of claim 19, wherein said message receiving means stores said message in a data structure.

22. (Original) The article of claim 21, further comprising said message receiving means indicating by a flag receipt of said message in said data structure to said launching means.

23. (Original) The article of claim 22, wherein said launching means resets said flag following launching of said lower priority task.

24. (Original) The article of claim 19, further comprising means in the medium for maintaining a level of operation by a higher priority level task.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:

receiving a message from a remote administrator in firmware, wherein receipt of said message is by a tool operating at a medium priority level;

storing said message in a data structure shared between said medium priority tool and a lower priority tool;

setting a flag to indicate receipt of said message in said data structure to said lower priority tool; and

launching a lower priority task only in response to said message absent a suspension selected from the group consisting of: a system interrupt and a pause in a higher level task operation.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising maintaining a level of operation by said higher priority task.